

CLAIMS

1. A catalog template system, further comprising:

at least one catalog page having a first plurality of images, each image in the first plurality of images representing a first part of a complete object;

at least one template page having a second plurality of images, the second plurality of images related to the first plurality of images, and each image in the second plurality of images representing a second part of a complete object;

means to select one of the first plurality of images, and one of the second plurality of images; and

means to display the images selected from the first plurality of images and the second plurality of images such that they combined to create an image of a complete object;

whereby images from first and second pluralities of images can be selectively combined with one another to produce a number of images of complete objects.

2. A system, as in claim 1, wherein:

the second plurality of images on the template page arranged around the periphery of the template page and sized such that when the edge of the template page is aligned with a selected image from the first plurality of images on the catalog page, at least one of the images from the second plurality of images aligns with the

selected image from the first plurality of images to form an image of a complete object;

whereby images from the first and second plurality of images can be selectively combined to form an image of a complete object.

3. A system, as in claim 2, wherein:

the edges of the template page is trimmed such that the edges of the selected images arranged around the periphery of the template page are substantially on the edge of the template page;

whereby the template page is trimmed to allow the first and second images, when combined to form a complete object, to more accurately align with one another.

4. A system, as in claim 1, wherein:

the template page is fabricated from material which is substantially transparent; and

the second plurality of images arranged on the template page such that when the template page is placed on top of the catalog page, and an image from the catalog page is aligned with an image from the template page goes to images will create the image of a complete object;

whereby substantially all of the surface area of the template page is available to display images from the second plurality of images.

5. A system, as in claim 1, wherein:

the images in the first and second plurality of images are printed images.

6. A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

the images in the first and second plurality of images are fabricated from the same material that the complete object is fabricated from;

whereby the complete object can be seen and felt at as it appears after fabrication.

7. A system, as in claim 6, wherein:

the second plurality of images on the template page arranged around the periphery of the template page and sized such that when the edge of the template page is aligned with a selected image from the first plurality of images on the catalog page, at least one of the images from the second plurality of images aligns with the selected image from the first plurality of images to form an image of a complete object;

whereby images from the first and second plurality of images can be selectively combined to form an image of a complete object.

8. A system, as in claim 7, wherein:

the edges of the template page is trimmed such that the edges of the selected images arranged around the periphery of the template page are substantially on the edge of the template page;

whereby the template page is trimmed to allow the first and second images, when combined to form a complete object, to more accurately align with one another.

9. A system, as in claim 6, wherein:

the template page is fabricated from material which is substantially transparent;
and

the second plurality of images arranged on the template page such that when the template page is placed on top of the catalog page, and an image from the catalog page is aligned with an image from the template page goes to images will create the image of a complete object;

whereby substantially all of the surface area of the template page is available to display images from the second plurality of images.

10. A system, as in claim 1, wherein:

the first plurality of images have a front edge, where the front edge joins the edge of an image from the second plurality of images, which forms a substantially straight line;

whereby the edges of the first plurality of images and the edges of the second plurality of images form a substantially straight line when joined together.

11. A catalog template system, further comprising:

a slide rule having a fixed catalog segment and a slidable template segment,
wherein:

the fixed catalog segment having a first plurality of images, each image in the first plurality of images representing a first part of a complete object;
and

the slidable template segment having a second plurality of images, the second plurality of images related to the first plurality of images, and each image in the second plurality of images representing a second part of a complete object; and

the slidable template segment slidably attached to the fixed catalog segment such that a selected image from the first plurality of images can be aligned with a selected image from the second plurality of images such that when the selected images are aligned together, they combine to create an image of a complete object;

whereby images from first and second pluralities of images can be selectively combined with one another to produce a number of images of complete objects.

12. A catalog template system, as in claim 11, wherein:

the slide rule has a linear structure in which the fixed catalog segment and the slidable template segment slide in a linear fashion in relation to one another.

13. A catalog template system, as in claim 11, wherein:

the slide rule has a circular structure in which the rear disk is attached to, and rotates in relation to, a front disk;

either the rear disk or the front disk contains the fixed catalog segment, and the other disk contains the slidable template segment.

14. A system, as in claim 11, wherein:

the first plurality of images have a front edge, where the front edge joins the edge of an image from the second plurality of images, which forms a substantially straight line;

whereby the edges of the first plurality of images and the edges of the second plurality of images form a substantially straight line when joined together.

15. A method of displaying the large volume of combinable items using a template system, including the steps of:

selecting a first image from a database having first plurality of images which represents combinable parts of a complete object, and selecting a second image from a database having a second plurality of images which represents combinable

parts of the complete object, the first and second images related to each other, such that when combined, they form an image of the complete object;

displaying the image of the complete object;

selecting ordering information related to the complete object;

using the selected ordering information to place an order for the complete object;

whereby images from first and second pluralities of images can be selectively combined with one another such that the most desirable complete object is selected.

16. A method, as in claim 15, including the additional steps of:

photographing the first and second plurality of images such that the image of the complete object is substantially aligned at the front edge of the first plurality of images with the edge of an image from the second plurality of images, such that they are in substantial contact when displayed

whereby the edges of the first plurality of images and the edges of the second plurality of images form a substantially straight line when joined together.

17. A method, as in claim 16, including the additional steps of:

displaying the first plurality of images in the form of catalog pages; and

displaying the second plurality of images in the form of a template.

18. A method, as in claim 16, including the additional steps of:

displaying the first and second plurality of images in the form of computer images.

19. A method, as in claim 16, including the additional steps of:

displaying the first and second plurality of images on components of the slide rule.

20. A method, as in claim 15, including the additional steps of:

displaying the first and second plurality of images in the form of computer images.